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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1966

BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
"Eastlands",
London Road,
Basingstoke,
Hants.

August 1967.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year ending 1966 as directed by the Public Health Officers Regulations.

Vital Statistics - The population of the district as notified by the Registrar General, shows an increase of 250 over the previous year. As the natural increase is only 23, the higher figure points to immigration into the Rural District.

In the mortality returns, 66% of all male deaths occurred in the over 65's while the figure rose to 83% for females of the same age group. The age structure of deaths being greatest in the over 65's, it is not surprising to see that nearly 60% of all deaths are due to heart and circulatory changes. Malignant disease accounted for about 14% of the total deaths.

Social and Sanitary Circumstances - In last year's Annual Report, I pointed out that many well populated areas in the district still lacked main drainage and demands on the Council's Cesspool Emptying Service continue to increase. This has now presented difficulty in disposing of the cesspool contents. The Council has two tankers in constant use and very little of their contents can be discharged into sewers because sewage works are not adapted to deal with them. Arrangements are made for disposal on farm land, but this often leads to complaints of smell.

Whilst I am satisfied that the risk to the public health from the discharge of cesspool contents on arable land is small, the practice is clearly offensive and people who are told not to allow their cesspools to overflow cannot understand why the Council discharges similar matter in the countryside.

It is also anomalous that no powers exist enabling the Council to prohibit the erection of new houses served by cesspools. No matter who pays, emptying is costly and disposal difficult.

The only satisfactory method of disposal is into a sewage treatment works. Some capacity exists at Oakley and the Council's plans for sewering Bramley and Monk Sherborne have included provision for the treatment of cesspool contents at the extended works at Sherfield-on-Loddon and Sherborne St. John. Unfortunately, the Minister of Housing and Local Government has not permitted either of these schemes to proceed. More attention must be paid to this problem and the adaptation of other works should be considered.

It is pleasing to report that the East Oakley Sewerage Scheme has now been completed, but further complaints of fouling of ditches in Bramley have been made.

The extensive improvements to the hospital kitchens in Park Prewett and Basing Road Hospitals which commenced in 1966, have now been completed. Similar improvements are now being introduced into the subsidiary kitchens.

My thanks are due to the Council and staff of the Public Health Department for all their help during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T. E. Roberts

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area	74,390 acres
Population - Registrar General's Estimate Mid. 1966	20,780
Number of inhabited houses	5,719
Rateable Value	£643,126.
Product of penny rate	£2,369.

VITAL STATISTICS

	1966	1965	1964
Live births	334	330	326
Live birth rate per 1000 population	16.1	16.1	15.9
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	6.6	6.7	7.9
Stillbirths	5.0	1.0	4.0
Stillbirth rate per 1000 live and stillbirths	14.7	3.0	12.1
Total live and stillbirths	339	331	330
Infant deaths	4	8	4
Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births Total	18.0	24.2	12.2
" " " " " " " Legitimate	12.0	18.1	13.3
" " " " " " " Illegitimate	6.0	6.1	1.1
Neonatal (first 4 weeks) rate per 1000 live births	6.0	6.1	12.2
Early neonatal rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 live births)	6.0	6.1	12.2
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week)	20.6	15.1	27.6
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1000 live and stillbirths	Nil	Nil	Nil
Comparability factors (births)	1.10	1.10	1.10
(deaths)	0.54	0.52	0.54

BIRTHS	Male	Female	Total	1965	1964
Live births: Legitimate	171	141	312	308	300
Live births: Illegitimate	9	13	22	22	26
Birth rate per 1000 population (corrected)			17.7	17.7	17.49
Average for England and Wales			17.7	18.0	18.4

DEATHS	Male	Female	Total	1965	1964
Deaths from all causes	151	184	335	328	316
Death rate per 1000 (corrected)			8.8	7.8	8.3
Average for England and Wales			11.7	11.5	11.3

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CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS	Under 24 hrs.	Under 1 week	1 - 4 weeks	1 - 12 months
Prematurity	-	-	2	-
Respiratory distress	1	-	-	-
Neonatal intestinal obstruction ..	-	1	-	-

STILLBIRTHS	Male	Female	Total	1965	1964
Legitimate	1	4	5	1	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-	-

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH

Code No.	Disease	Male	Female	Total	1965	1964
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	-	1	2	1
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	-	3	5	4
11	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	5	2	7	7	9
12	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	5	5	6	2
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	16	13	29	25	24
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	1	2	1	2
16	Diabetes	2	1	3	1	2
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	22	29	51	45	42
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	39	22	61	50	48
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	4	5	9	3	5
20	Other Heart Disease	14	49	63	63	64
21	Other Circulatory Disease	6	6	12	12	14
22	Influenza	-	1	1	1	-
23	Pneumonia	12	14	26	39	41
24	Bronchitis	4	3	7	12	11
25	Other Disease of Respiratory System	1	-	1	5	3
27	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1	2	-	-
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	2	4	2	3
31	Congenital Malformations	-	2	2	1	2
32	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	10	22	32	27	26
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	7	-	7	3	-
34	All Other Accidents	1	3	4	10	5
35	Suicide	-	3	3	1	1

EPIDEMIOLOGY

Notification of Diseases

Measles	91	(150)
Scarlet Fever	2	(10)
Meningitis	1	(-)
Whooping Cough	2	(-)
Dysentery.....	2	(2)
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	5	(5)
Salmonella Typhimurium	2	(-)

(Figures in brackets refer to 1965)

IMMUNISATION

Diphtheria

During the year, 382 (371) (301) persons completed the primary course of immunisation, and 548 (512) (470) received a boosting dose. The latter doses are given at school to the 5 year olds during the Summer Term and to the 10 year olds during the Easter Term.

Poliomyelitis

Protection against Poliomyelitis is also offered and during the year 357 (331) (326) completed the primary course and 213 (335) (106) boosting doses were given to the 5 year olds.

VACCINATION

Smallpox

During the year, the following numbers of people in each age group were successfully vaccinated or revaccinated against Smallpox:

	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2/4 yrs.	5/14 yrs.
Primary Vaccination	29 (51) (18)	212 (140) (163)	54 (38) (13)	40 (10) (-)
Re-vaccination	- (-) (-)	- (-) (-)	7 (4) (4)	38 (-)(15)

Figures in brackets refer to 1965 and 1964

B.C.G.

During the year, two private schools situated in the Rural District Council area were visited and the appropriate children were offered B.C.G. vaccination should they need it. 74 children were eligible and 51 were actually given B.C.G. The difference between the two figures is due either to refusals, absent at either testing or reading or being regarded as positive at reading.

The mass x-ray which is situated at Basingstoke twice monthly, serves many parts of the Rural District Council area and during 1966, 1499 persons were x-rayed. 7 males and 1 female were shown to have significant tuberculosis, giving an incidence of 5.34 per 1000. This higher figure is made up mainly on account of the Park Prewett Survey.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

The District Health Sub-Committee which has functioned since the beginning of the National Health Service, meeting quarterly, was finally disbanded during the year.

There was instituted in its place an Annual Meeting which was attended by the County Medical Officer and members of his staff. This gave members of the Rural District Council Health Committee, who by virtue of their position are automatically members of the District Health Sub-Committee, an opportunity of not only hearing what County functions are carried out in the Rural District Council area, but also of putting their own particular queries to the County Health Department staff.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE - Health Visiting

The Health Visitor is informed of all births to mothers normally resident in the Rural District whether they occur inside or outside the rural boundary. They assist the mother and offer advice on all matters regarding immunisation and feeding, working at all times in close liaison with the family doctor to enable the child to receive the greatest benefit.

Babies are also seen by the Health Visitor at Child Welfare Clinics which are situated throughout the district. At some of the larger clinics a doctor is also in attendance. The attachment scheme continues to flourish and continues to be the best scheme by which Local Authority staff are made available to General Practitioners.

DISTRICT MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

	Midwifery		Visits		General Cases		Visits	
Basing	24	(Nil)	602	(172)	78	(69)	1880	(1580)
Bramley	19	(14)	295	(452)	35	(55)	696	(954)
Sherborne St. John	31	(8)	280	(235)	36	(33)	2032	(1820)
Preston Candover	4	(6)	62	(172)	34	(21)	393	(461)
Silchester	24	(13)	676	(433)	65	(42)	2007	(895)
Upton Grey	11	(7)	161	(290)	31	(41)	1146	(543)
Oakley	Nil	(Nil)	Nil	(Nil)	85	(19)	455	(465)

Figures in brackets refer to 1965.

HOME HELP SERVICE

	TOTAL	Maternity	Emergency Sickness	Post Hospital	Mentally Sick	Chronic	Aged Sick and Infirm
Receiving Help 1.1.66	58	1	-	-	-	9	48
New Cases	34	5	3	2	3	5	16
Total No. of Cases	92	6	3	2	3	14	64
No. of Cases Completed	37	6	2	2	2	2	23
Carried Forward	55	-	1	-	1	12	41

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 and 1951

There were no applications under these Acts during the year.

OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE

Both the statutory and voluntary welfare services work individually and co-operate when necessary to bring the greatest benefit to the elderly people of the District. A monthly Chiropody service is available for those in need of it.

VISITS, APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO WELFARE ACCOMMODATION

No. of cases visited.....	101	(63)	
Applications.....	11	(34)	including 2 short stay applications
Admissions.....	10	(21)	including 2 short stay cases
Aged, Registered Handicapped Persons.....	22	(12)	

INVESTIGATIONS MADE AND REFERRED TO:-

National Assistance Board	Nil	(Nil)	(11)
Hospital Bed Service	Nil	(4)	(1)
Round Table	Nil	(Nil)	(1)
Housing Department	Nil	(2)	(2)
Probation Office	Nil	(Nil)	(1)
Medical Officer of Health - Section 47 ...	Nil	(Nil)	(1)
Home Help Organiser	Nil	(Nil)	(1)
Miscellaneous	13	(6)	(11)
Mental Health	Nil	(1)	(Nil)
Placed in Private Accommodation (under County Placement Scheme).....	2	(Nil)	(Nil)
Visits in Relation to Group Dwelling Scheme - Cavalier Close, Basing.....	70	(Nil)	(Nil)
Protection of Property	1	(Nil)	(Nil)

Figures in brackets refer to 1965 and 1964

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Housing

Number of dwellings completed since 1945 is as follows:-

	Total	1966	1965	1964
Private	1359	148	97	82
Council	784	58	24	32

During the year, aged persons' dwellings were completed at Basing. A warden is resident and available to help should the need arise.

Attention continued to be given to individual unfit houses, but the main efforts were directed towards the improvement of properties. It is hoped shortly to commence a further housing survey to ascertain what dwellings remain to be improved.

Sewerage

The Oakley sewerage scheme was completed during the year. The majority of private houses, however, are still without main drainage and have to rely on cesspits or septic tanks for sewage disposal. Since most of the development is in the north of the district where a clay subsoil predominates, the problem of sewage disposal is giving cause for alarm.

Water Supply

The shortage of water in the northern part of the district was largely resolved during the year.

A lorry carrying styrene, which is used in the production of plastics, overturned on the A.30 in October, discharging about 1,500 gallons into an adjoining marshy area and polluting the River Loddon. The site was in close proximity to a watercress bed and to a number of houses which draw their water from private wells and it was necessary to advise the temporary withdrawal of the sale of the watercress and to arrange an alternative water supply for the cottages. It was soon discovered that both watercress and drinking water contaminated with styrene are so unpalatable as to be unacceptable even when the styrene content is far below the threshold of toxicity. The risk of accidental poisoning both to humans and animals was therefore very unlikely.

Much of the styrene was subsequently destroyed by burning. Samples of water showed a rapid decrease of styrene content, probably due to polymersation.

Food Supplies

Milk

Fewer notifications of salmonella infection in milk were received. Routine sampling of all milk sold retail continued.

Other Foods

From the number of complaints received in respect of foreign bodies in foods it would appear that the general public are becoming more discerning regarding the quality of food they are prepared to accept.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1966

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my nineteenth annual report concerning work carried out by your Public Health Inspectors.

Number and Nature of Visits and Inspections

Houses under Public Health Acts	476
Houses under Housing Acts	227
Improvement Grants and Standard Grants	281
Overcrowded Houses	9
Re Water Supply	142
Moveable Dwellings and Camping Sites	211
Offices and Shops	87
Factories	32
Schools	12
Food Premises	511
Refuse Collection and Disposal	443
Pest Control	102
Cesspool Emptying Service	168
Re-visits Following Service of Notices	227
Miscellaneous Visits	181
Complaints Received and Investigated	77

FOOD PREMISES

Inspections were made by the Public Health Inspectors regarding food and food premises as follows:-

	No. in District	No. of Inspections
General Provision Shops	51	113
Butchers Shops	6	14
Inns and Off Licences	42	65
Restaurants, Cafes, etc.	10	48
Bakehouses	4	9
Registered Ice Cream Premises	66	141
Registered Sausage Manufacturers	5	11
Hospitals and Old Peoples Homes	4	14
Dairies and Milk Distributors	10	47
Schools	21	17
Clubs	11	18
Watercress Growers	6	14
	236	511

MILK SAMPLING

Grade of Milk	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised	25	25	0
Untreated	22	18	4
	47	43	4

Two samples of untreated milk failed the methylene blue test and details were forwarded to the licensing authority.

Two samples of untreated milk also failed the ring test for Brucella, but the presence of brucella was not confirmed. It is likely that a recently vaccinated cow introduced into the herd was responsible for this failure.

During the year, the farm at which brucella was previously reported ceased retailing untreated milk and now sends all milk for pasteurisation.

FOOD PREMISES

The trend continues for the village shop to become self-service and to increase the range of goods sold. Pre-packaging is essential in this type of shop and as a result an improved standard of hygiene has been noted. However, it has become necessary to give a good deal more attention to preparation rooms where cheese, bacon and meat are prepared prior to being packed and refrigerated for display. In small shops it is tempting to rob Peter to pay Paul by increasing the retail sales area at the expense of the room available for storage and preparation.

The amount of refrigeration continues to increase as does the amount and variety of frozen foods stored. Storage cabinets still leave much to be desired. Improvements in design are being made, but in view of the large capital expenditure involved, small shop-keepers are unlikely to exchange their existing cabinets.

A number of complaints regarding dirty milk bottles and foreign bodies in food were received, five resulting in legal proceedings. Although in no case could it be said that undue negligence had occurred nevertheless, in the business of supplying food to the public, extraordinary precautions must often be taken to ensure that the food is clean and free from contamination. The Regulations do not make excessive demands and a supplier who is not prepared to meet their requirements should not be engaged in the handling of food.

ICE CREAM SAMPLING

Eight samples were taken and were reported to be satisfactory.

There are no ice cream manufacturers in this district and only pre-packed ice cream is sold from registered premises.

WATER SUPPLIES

Piped supplies are available in every parish but a few isolated properties remain dependent upon private wells and rain water tanks. The contamination of the River Loddon by styrene during the summer demonstrated the importance of keeping a record of all farms and dwellings not yet supplied with mains water. Many of these have a sufficient and wholesome supply from wells and bores but the risk of contamination is ever present and routine sampling is an essential safeguard. 20 samples were taken from piped supplies and all were found to be satisfactory.

Housing development in the northern part of the district served by the Thames Valley Water Board had to be restricted during the year because of a general shortage of water.

MAIN DRAINAGE

In the parishes of Old Basing, North Waltham, Oakley, Sherborne St. John and Sherfield-on-Loddon, a total of 1773 properties are connected to public sewers. This represents approximately 31% of the total houses in the area and much remains to be undertaken in this field.

The present stringent financial climate prevents the Council from proceeding smoothly with schemes prepared for Bramley, Monk Sherborne, Chineham, Mortimer West End and Pamber Heath. In each of these parishes differing public health problems must be tolerated until Ministry consents for loan sanctions are forthcoming.

SWIMMING POOL

There is in the area one swimming pool open to members of the public. Samples of water were found to be satisfactory.

HOUSING ACTS

Grants

Without doubt, Improvement and Standard grants have played an important part in raising the general standard of housing accommodation in the district.

The Council stake in housing is now very considerable when it is realised that of 5,719 dwellings in the area, 890 are owned by the Local Authority, 536 have received financial assistance by way of Improvement Grants and a further 208 by way of Standard Grants. Many more have been built or purchased with the aid of loans provided by the Council.

Slum Clearance

The clearance of unfit properties progressed during the year when:

15 houses were demolished
1 house awaited demolition
8 houses were closed
4 houses became subject to owner's formal undertaking

It is estimated that 56 houses still await formal action by the Council under the Housing Acts.

During 1966, 15 families, comprising 55 persons, were rehoused from unfit properties and 3 cases of overcrowding were abated. In addition, 86 properties were improved or repaired as a result of formal or informal action by the Council and its Officers.

Rent Acts

No applications for certificates of disrepair were received.

Housing Act 1964

3 tenants made representations that their houses lacked amenities and ought to be improved and appropriate action was taken by the Council.

CARAVANS AND CARAVAN SITES

Development of the Council's caravan site was delayed by the national financial position and by the restrictions imposed by the shortage of water in the area in which the site is situated. However, work is now in progress.

The number of caravans in the area remained fairly constant. The County Council's policy not to permit the use of land for the siting of individual caravans appears to be having some effect, as very few applications are now being made. The County Council's intention was that caravans should be stationed on large sites properly designed for the purpose. Such sites require considerable capital expenditure for development. In addition, the number of areas where a caravan site can be established without upsetting the balance of village life is limited. As a result, only one application for the development of a new site has been received in this area since the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, came into force.

The iniquitous practice of charging a premium to obtain a caravan standing on a site still continues. It is also known that a standing on some sites can be obtained only by purchasing a caravan from one particular supplier, the site owner presumably receiving some consideration. There is temptation to obtain vacant possession of standings on sites for this purpose and the absence of security of tenure leads to extremely unhappy circumstances for some caravan dwellers.

It is pleasing to report that in three reported cases of fire on caravan sites the facilities on site were found to be adequate.

REFUSE AND SALVAGE

COLLECTIONS

Throughout the district, weekly kerbside collections are carried out but arrangements are made to collect from the rear of premises in cases of old age or infirmity. Kerbside collections are speedy and cheap but unhygienic and an eyesore and cause hardship to many ratepayers. The discontinuance of this method of collection is recommended and last autumn the Council decided to experiment with paper sack collections at Sherborne St. John. Early impressions from this experiment are most favourable both from ratepayers and employees and it is hoped that the Council will programme the extension of this system to other parishes.

At Basing Road Hospital, three collections are made weekly and at Park Prewett Hospital daily visits are made with the exception of Sundays. At the latter, at least one load is removed daily and this, together with new housing development in the district and the general increase in the volume of refuse to be collected, incurs regular overtime by employees.

Four vehicles are in daily service and the oldest vehicle is held in reserve. It needs replacement at an early date.

Considerable difficulties in recruiting and retaining employees were experienced until after the severe economic restrictions imposed by the Government in July took effect.

Vehicles in service are as follows:-

Registration No.	Type	Purchased
POT 471	18 cu.yd. (Shelvoke and Drewry fore and aft tipping vehicles with diesel engines.)	July 1956
VCG 558		March 1959
YAA 741		April 1960
689 JCG	25 cu.yd. (Shelvoke and Drewry fore and aft tipping vehicle with diesel engine and fitted with power press.)	Sept. 1963
DHO 541C	35 cu.yd. (Shelvoke and Drewry Pakamatic.)	Dec. 1965

DISPOSAL

Refuse from the whole of the district and from Basingstoke Corporation continued to be disposed of at Marnel Dell by controlled tipping. Quantities disposed of were:

	Loads		Cu. Yds.	
Basingstoke R.D.C.	1,831	(1,863)	32,537	(30,100)
Basingstoke Corporation	2,023	(2,055)	42,989	(40,916)
C.A.D. Bramley	145	(144)	1,015	(1,008)
Park Prewett Hospital	33	(41)	495	(465)
Trade Refuse	2,890	(1,456)	17,340	(8,736)

Corresponding figures for 1965 are shown in brackets.

Trade refuse quantities again increased during the year and income amounted to £1364.

Although daily treatments were carried out, complaints regarding fly infestations were received from neighbouring properties. Each vehicle delivering refuse to the tip carries its quota of flies and larvae and it is unfortunate that automatic insecticidal sprays cannot be fitted inside vehicles to treat each load en route. Paper sack collections will reduce infestations and also the litter problem which arises from loose paper being blown on to adjoining property.

Marnel Dell is now filling rapidly and the destructor plant proposed by the Corporation is urgently necessary. During the year the following materials were salvaged:-

	Quantity				Value
	Tons	Cwts	Qrs.	Lbs.	
Paper	115	6	1	16)	
Rags	2	8	3	4)	
Metal	5	17	2	0)	£858.

Comparative figures for former years:- 1965 - £953.
1964 - £785.
1963 - £615.

The annual distance covered by this service was 41,308 miles.

DEPOT

The depot at Coronation Road was re-constructed during the year and adequate facilities are now available for the parking of vehicles in the open, repairs and maintenance, toilets and ablutions, mess room and lockers.

REMOVAL OF VEHICLES REGULATIONS 1961

During the year, 14 vehicles abandoned on the highway were disposed of. A further 51 vehicles were removed to a breaker's yard, at no expense to the Council.

KEEP BRITAIN TIDY CAMPAIGN

The Council provides litter bins at the request of Parish Councils and these are emptied in the course of normal collections. Litter bins on trunk roads are provided and emptied by the County Council.

As a result of pamphlets to householders and publicity in the local press, ratepayers are now aware that the Council will remove bulky household articles free of charge. At least two vehicles are normally engaged upon this service on Saturdays.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

The following two vehicles are in service:-

Registration No.	Type	Purchased
696 BOT)	Shelvoke and Drewry 800 gallon vehicles with	May 1961
682 HOR)	diesel engines.	Oct. 1963

Standard charges for the work remained at:-

For the first load on each occasion ..... £1.18s.4d.
Second and subsequent loads on the same occasion ..... £1.10s.0d.

These charges were reduced by half for the third, fourth and fifth emptying of a pit during the financial year, and further reduced to 10/-d. for the first load and 7/6d. for subsequent loads after a pit had been emptied five times. A contribution from the Rate Fund met the deficit incurred by these concessions. Quarterly or more frequent emptying qualified for a 10% discount upon contract work.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE - Cont'd...

Six months after public sewers become available in any parish, the service operates only for the final emptying of a pit, when a connection to the public sewer is about to be made.

During the year, 3,798 loads were removed, 33,807 miles were covered and income from the service was £4,527.

Disposal difficulties continued throughout the year and only at Herriard, Mortimer West End, Preston Candover and Sherborne St. John were regular tipping sites available. Much of the employee's time was involved in haulage and regular weekend work became necessary. No satisfactory solution to this problem will be forthcoming until most, if not all, of the contents can be discharged into sewage works adapted for this purpose. None of the village works at present functioning is so constructed.

The older vehicle is to be replaced at an early date.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Routine inspections were made during the year and several improvements were noted, the most important of which was the added attention given to the question of heating. Lighting, too, in offices and corridors had been improved.

No accidents were reported during the year.

CLEAN AIR ACT 1956

In a rural area, predominantly agricultural in character, the administration of the Clean Air Act presents very few problems. However, two points are worth mentioning. One concerns the practice of burning garden refuse. Persistant complaints were received from a family who had come to live in the country to get away from the dirt, smoke and noise of town life, only to be inconvenienced by the smoke from bonfires. After consideration of the facts the Council decided to take no action in the matter.

The second point concerns the smoke from a refuse destructor. In view of the expansion of Basingstoke as an overspill town it is proposed to dispose of household refuse in a destructor rather than by controlled tipping. The site chosen was to the East of Basingstoke. It also happened to be to the West of the village of Old Basing and the inhabitants took exception, among other things, to the possibility of smoke and fumes polluting the atmosphere. The Rural District Council agreed with these objections and after a Public Enquiry it has been determined that the refuse destructor shall be sited elsewhere.

PEST CONTROL

The Council now employ one full time and one part-time rodent operative for general pest control. During the summer months it has been the practice to conduct surveys of the district and to perform annual tasks such as the baiting of sewers, etc. However, although the baiting of new sewers is undertaken as a routine, the annual baiting of existing sewers is no longer considered necessary as they have always been found to be free from infestation. Instead, baiting is now being performed every three years.

Surveys of the district are becoming more difficult to carry out as a result of the much increased call on operators during the summer months to deal with infestations of flies, mosquitoes, ants and wasps.

It is noticeable that people moving to the villages surrounding Basingstoke who have hitherto lived in towns are sorely troubled by the bites of midges and mosquitoes to the point of requiring medical attention. Control of such pests is a widespread and massive operation fraught with difficulties, but inspections in the immediate vicinity of the complaint often reveal pockets of heavy infestation which can be dealt with easily.

It is a long time since a complaint regarding fleas, lice and particularly bedbugs was last received.

PEST CONTROL - Cont'd...

Details of rodent control during the year follow:-

		Non-agricultural	Agricultural
(1)	Total number of properties (including nearby premises, inspected following notification	315	26
	No. infested by (i) rats	310	26
	(ii) mice	15	6
(2)	Total number of properties inspected for rats and for mice for reason other than notification	1,074	96
	No. infested by (i) rats	215	91
	(ii) mice	55	11

NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH

Outstanding December 1965		Served 1966		Complied with 1966		Outstanding December 1966	
Statutory	Informal	Statutory	Informal	Statutory	Informal	Statutory	Informal
14	9	30	17	27	19	17	7

LICENCES IN FORCE

Game Dealers	1
Caravan Sites	28
Milk Distributors	10
Premises registered for the sale of ice-cream	66
Premises registered for the manufacture of sausages ...	8
Scrap Metal Dealers	7

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My thanks are due to the staff of the Public Health Department for the ready help and support I have received in all matters.

P. C. BOX

Chief Public Health Inspector.